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Prayers for Young Persons.

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S. H. 1826

DAILY AND OCCASIONAL PRAYERS,

FOR THE USE OF

YOUNG PERSONS.

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

BY THE REV. JAMES RICHARDSON, M.A.

ONE OF THE VICARS OF YORK MINSTER.

Praying always, with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance. Ephes. vi. 18.

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INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

TO

YOUNG PERSONS.

REMEMBER THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH, is the serious and solemn advice of one of the wisest men that ever lived. It was directed to young persons, and is an earnest exhortation to dedicate the morning of life to the service of God. The words were spoken by him as flowing from his own experience, and after he had clearly discovered that all besides was vanity. They follow the warnings to a young man, that God would bring him into judgement, if, without the fear of God before him, he heedlessly spent the days of his youth in the ways of his heart, and in the sight of his eyes: and they go before a true, but solemn piece of information, that the evil time will come, and the years draw nigh, when, age having succeeded youth, and infirmities the vigour and health of early days, the melancholy reflection will force itself upon the mind, that they have now no pleasure in those things which once gave them delight.

This lesson I lay before young persons, earnestly entreating them to treasure it up in their minds as wise and sober counsel, which will lay the foundaton of peace here, and peace for evermore; for besides reminding them of the fact that days mispent in youth, opportunities lost, and time abused, cannot communicate consolation or peace in declining life, I would also solemnly remind them, that the happiness even of eternity itself, depends upon their adopting Solomon's caution. If the young man remembers not his Creator in his youth, and cannot perhaps do it in advanced life, from inveterate habits, distracting infirmities, or perplexing cares, what has he left for eternity, and how is he to be prepared to meet his God, or inherit heaven? This deserves the serious thought of every young person, and he should lay the truth to heart, that if childhood and youth be vanity, death and eternity must be vexation.

To my young friends I submit the above consideration, hoping that it may stir them up to remember their Creator in the days of their youth, and not spend those days in vanity, which has never yet brought a man peace at the last. Follow the advice so wisely given, and so graciously left upon record for your learning. Seek and serve God in your youth, and he will not forsake you when your strength faileth, and the infirmities of years press upon

you. *They that honour me,* said God by his prophet, *I will honour; but they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.*—This is worthy of notice. Let the words also of David to his son, sink deep into your hearts: *Thou Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart, and a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him he will be found of thee, but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.* I need but slightly assist the impression, which these words are calculated to make upon the ingenuous youth, who as yet may fear to offend God. If such a one casts his eye over this page, I hope he will be induced to seek the Lord, and not to forsake him, lest he himself be cast off for ever.

If the question be asked, how shall I seek him? I answer, by the obvious means of diligent prayer. This the apostle advises when he says, *in every thing, by prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known unto God:* in which case, as he adds, *the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* To assist those young persons in prayer, who may not already be supplied with suitable forms, the following few short ones have been composed, and are submitted to their inspection, with a hope that they may be found expressive

ord taught his disciples a form, which
left for our use and service; and that
the most important occasions that
rred of prayer to God, the afflicted
himself prayed to the Father three
imes in the garden of Gethsemane,
E SAME WORDS.
ould finally observe, and I wish those
rsons to notice it, who may take up
nanual, that it is not the mere prayer
, but of the heart, which efficaciously
the throne of grace. Without devo-
our of spirit, a sense of our need, and
exercise of christian graces, we shall
heard with a form nor without one;
these preparations of the heart, we
heard with either. If therefore we
e our prayers ascend to God, as the
a morning or an evening sacrifice

PRAYERS

FOR

YOUNG PERSONS.

For Sunday Morning.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused me to lie down and to rise up again in peace and safety, none making me afraid, I humbly thank thee for this and for every mercy, beseeching thee to make me daily and hourly sensible that it is of thy goodness that life is continued to me, with its conveniences and comforts. Continue, I pray thee, thy special blessing and protection through the day, that I may neither fall into sin nor run into danger. Bless

me when I go out and when I come in from this time forth for evermore.

As it is a day set apart for holy purposes, wherein thy people are commanded to attend thee, in thy house and service; incline me to fulfil this bounden duty, and be present with me when I go forth into thy courts. Give me those graces which may enable me to offer thee an acceptable service. Adorn me especially with humbleness of mind, penitence of spirit, faith unfeigned, and a stedfast purpose to lead a new life. Restrain all wandering thoughts and inordinate affections, that I may attend upon thee without distraction.

Give me the spirit of prayer and supplication, that I may ask faithfully, and obtain effectually to the relief of my necessities, and to the setting forth of thy glory. Let my prayer come up before thee as the incense and as the morning sacrifice. When I lift up my hands before thee, and cry to

thee for grace to help and mercy to save, then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive the sin of thy servant. Sanctify me in the use of all the means of grace which I may be partaker of this day, and sanctify those means to my use, that I may grow in grace, and in the knowledge and love of my Lord and Saviour. Give me a hearing ear and an understanding heart, that I may give most earnest heed to the word of instruction which may be spoken by thy ministering servants, and grant that whatever I shall profitably learn I may indeed fulfil the same. Thus build me up in my most holy faith, and keep me by thy power through faith unto salvation.

Bless all Christian Ministers and people, and increase their numbers in this and in all places. Be present wherever two or three are gathered together in thy name, and extend the knowledge of this name to the uttermost parts of the earth, that all

nations whom thou hast made may come and worship before thee and glorify thy name. Give wisdom and spiritual understanding to the King of these realms, to all that are in authority under him, to all our spiritual pastors and teachers, and to all sorts and conditions of men. Pour down thine especial blessing upon all my relations, friends, and acquaintances; [*here mention parents or others as the case may be*] Let thy mercy follow them and me through every changing scene of life, and bring us all to thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name and words I further address thee.

Our Father, &c.

For Sunday Evening.

O Merciful and Gracious Lord God, I thy humble servant beseech thee to receive my tribute of praise and thanksgiving for the benefits and blessings, temporal and spiritual, which I have this day enjoyed. And while I acknowledge, with a deep feeling of gratitude, the protection I have experienced, and the blessing which thy bounty has bestowed, I would especially record thy goodness in granting me the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I humbly thank thee for the opportunity I have had this day of attending thee in thy house and service. Grant that I may neither have prayed in vain nor heard in vain, nor offered the sacrifice of fools, who know not that they do evil, but of the wise in heart who shall see God. Pardon my wan-

derings and imperfections, my sins and infirmities, and bless to my use the ordinances of religion which I have been partaker of, and grant that through the profitable use of these means, I may not only have the hope of glory, but the full enjoyment, in that blessed place where Sabbaths never end.

That I may be prepared for that eternal Sabbath of rest which remains for thy people beyond the grave, may I profitably learn from thy word and Ministers, and fulfil the same in my life and conversation, and may I grow in grace and in wisdom as I grow in stature and in years, and, like my Saviour in his youth, in favour both with God and man. Give me increasing delight in thy service on this day, and preventing grace that I may never turn away my foot from thy Sabbath, but always call it a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and may honour thee in thine ordinances, neither

finding my own pleasure, nor speaking my own words. And in this frame of mind may I be found in the hour of death and on the day of judgment.

What I ask for myself, I ask for all sorts and conditions of men, that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among nations; especially I would beseech thee for all that I love and care for, [*my parents or others*]. Bless them with thy grace and heavenly benediction, granting them in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. And now, O Lord, to thy fatherly care I commit myself and all my concerns, humbly hoping that thou wilt keep me from all harm, and grant me refreshing rest in sleep, for Jesus Christ's sake, my Lord and only Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Monday Morning.

O Lord and Heavenly Father, who, of thy great goodness hast preserved me through the night, and brought me safe to see the light of this present day; I humbly thank thee for the protection I have experienced, and for the refreshing rest I have had in sleep. Let the memorial of thine abundant kindness be present with me during the business of the day, and never suffer me to forget that it is thou only who makest me to rest in peace, and dwell in safety. Be with me in every situation and under all the circumstances in which I may be placed. Keep me from evil and enable me to adorn the doctrine of God my Saviour in all things. Prepare me for all the events of life of trouble or of joy, and grant

me neither to be cast down by the one, nor lifted up by the other.

Keep me in thy faith and fear all the day long, and suffer me not to dishonour thee or my Christian profession by any wrong conduct. Enable me to fulfil my duty in the station of life I fill, or unto which it may please thee to call me, and to walk humbly with thee my God, and wisely and circumspectly among men. May I be a blessing to all with whom I am connected, and an especial comfort to all my relations and friends; and may I love the brotherhood, fear God, and honour the King, with all that are in authority under him.

Keep me this day without sin, and guide me to the practice of every thing that is lovely or of good report. Preserve me from every danger to which I may be exposed, and let peace and safety be ever with me. Bless all my family and friends, [*especially &c.*] and grant that they may please thee

both in will and deed by their lives and conversation. Give us grace to live in peace and love one with another, and so to pass through things temporal that we finally lose not things that are eternal. These prayers I humbly offer up to the throne of grace in the name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ my Lord, in whose comprehensive form of words, I further address thy divine Majesty.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Monday Evening.

O Almighty Lord God, in whom I live, and move, and have my being, I approach thee this Evening deeply sensible of thy goodness to me, not only this day, but ever since I was born. Thy mercies are in-

deed new every morning and evening, and great is thy faithfulness. This I have experienced through the day that is past, for thou hast both preserved me from danger, and given me whatever was necessary for my good. To all thy other mercies add that of a thankful heart, and enable me to praise thee not only with my lips but also in my life.

Grant me grace to live as becometh the Gospel of God, and to use the things of this world so as not abusing them, knowing that, as this day is now past and gone, so the fashion of the world passeth away, and that I myself am passing down the stream of time, and shortly shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world. Prepare me I beseech thee for the end of my days, and grant that when the night of death shall close in upon me, I may be found of thee in peace without spot and blameless. Pardon the sins of the day past,

and lay them not to my charge, but accept me for thy Son's sake, and on account of his merits and mediation, save me from their guilt, their power, and their condemnation. Let them never bring me to shame and confusion of face, but blot them out of the book of thy remembrance for ever.

Receive me under thy protection this night, and bless me as thou hast done during the day. Preserve me from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, as well as from the sickness that destroyeth at noon day, and preserve also all my dear friends and relatives, keeping each and all of us in peace and safety for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose most holy name and words, I further call upon thee.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Tuesday Morning.

Blessed Lord God, who hast remembered me in mercy when I laid helpless upon my bed, hast granted me refreshing rest in sleep, and brought me safe to the beginning of this day; while I beg to offer my tribute of praise for thy continued goodness, I beseech thee to defend me in the same by thy mighty power, that I may neither fall into sin nor run into danger, but that all my doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that which is righteous, and may be pleasing in thy sight. Under a full conviction that thou art the author and giver of all good things, may I always depend upon thy bounty for the reasonable supply of all my bodily wants; and as a Christian, may I look to thee in humble confidence, for all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works.

Give me grace to conduct myself aright, in whatever situation or under whatever circumstances I may be placed; that I may honour and obey my parents, and all whom thy providence has placed over me, whether they be Rulers or Masters, Pastors or Teachers. With respect to these relations, may I, as the servant of Christ, exhibit all those graces and dispositions which adorn the Christian character, in singleness of heart, fearing God, and doing my duty heartily as unto the Lord and not unto man, knowing that I serve the Lord Christ. May this consideration influence all my conduct, and enter into all the concerns of my life; and may all my works be begun, continued, and ended in thee, that I may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting happiness. Deliver me this day from all evil and mischief, from sin, from the crafts and assaults of the devil, and from thy wrath. Deliver also from the same,

all that I love and care for, and conduct each of us to thy kingdom in heaven. These prayers I humbly offer up in the name of thy blessed Son, who hath taught and commanded me when I pray, to say

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Tuesday Evening.

O Lord my God, who art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look but with displeasure upon iniquity, I might, under this consideration, tremble to approach thee at the conclusion of this day, were it not for thy manifold and great mercies. I have sinned against thee by thought, word, and deed, and am conscious that if thou shouldst be extreme to mark what I

have done amiss, I could not abide it, but must fall under condemnation. But thou art a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, and of great pity, and there is mercy with thee, and plenteous redemption. On this ground I approach thee this Evening, beseeching thee according to thine accustomed goodness, to pardon and deliver me from all my sins, especially those by which I have offended thee this day; to confirm and strengthen me in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, and of thy great mercy to keep me in the same.

Stablish, strengthen, and settle me in the faith, and enable me, by thy heavenly grace, to abound in all the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to thy glory and praise. May I henceforth adorn the doctrine of God my Saviour more than I have hitherto done, and live to the glory of the author of my being. Thus may I pass all the days of my appointed time here

below, and in the patience of hope and labour of love, wait till my great change come, when earth, I humbly hope, will be changed for heaven, and the things of time for those of eternity.

Bless me this night and preserve me from evil, and both bless and preserve all my connections. Keep us safe under the shadow of thy wings, and let thy faithfulness and truth be our shield and buckler, for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect petitions.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Wednesday Morning.

Sensible of thy mercy, and thankful for the preservation I have experienced during the night, I now approach thee, O Lord my God, to offer thee my morning

sacrifice of praise. I acknowledge it to be of thy goodness that I have reposed in peace under thy shadow, and been kept in safety under thy protection, that my life has been spared me, and that I have not been cut off during the darkness of night and the helpless state of sleep, when I had none to protect me, but thee only. Thee therefore I would praise, as my bounden duty and reasonable service demand, and thee I would magnify as my salvation and my refuge.

But, O Lord, I am yet set, as thou knowest, in the midst of so many and great dangers, that, by reason of the frailty of my nature, I cannot always stand upright; grant me therefore such strength and protection as may support me in all dangers, and carry me through all temptations. Keep me from the pollution that is in the world through lust, and from the dangerous snare of evil communication: suffer me neither to walk with vain persons nor to

follow vain things, which cannot profit, because they are vain, and must lead to more ungodliness, but keep me in the path of sound wisdom and discretion. May I place thee before me as about my path and spying out all my ways, and may the sense of thy presence make me walk in thy faith and fear all the day, avoiding that which is evil, and following after that which is lovely and of good report.

Thus may I and all that I love and care for, be followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises, so that when our days are ended we may enter into thy rest. Hear me O my God, for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose comprehensive form of words I further address thee.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Wednesday Evening.

Merciful Lord, who hast a special regard to the work of thy hand, and hast promised never to forsake those who trust in thy mercy and seek thee by prayer, I thy servànt, in humble confidence and a lively hope, approach thee this Evening with unfeigned thanks for thy goodness in preserving me through the day from all sad accidents to which I have been liable, and which might have befallen me, from my own indiscretion, had not thy hand shielded me in the midst of danger. Thou hast been present to keep me in all my ways, and of thy bounty I have had all things richly to enjoy. Let the sense of thy continued goodness make me ever thankful, and teach me properly to value thy favours in all thy providential mercies, to acknowledge thy presence in all situations of life,

and thy gracious protection under all circumstances.

As well as for preservation, or rather above all thy other blessings, make me sensible of thy love and mercy in providing for me a Saviour and a great Salvation. As a sinner may I see the need I have of this Saviour; may I receive him as he is offered, and look to him, in confidence, for grace to help and mercy to save. Incline me to cast all my care upon him, in sure and certain hope of pardon and peace, knowing that he has cared for me, and given himself a sacrifice for my sins: let this humble me for sin, and cause me to repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance: let it give me faith to believe the promises made to penitent sinners in him, and let it increase my faith, that I may be steadfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

I beseech thee mercifully to protect me this night against all evil, and protect all that I am bound by affection or duty to pray for, [*especially* &c.] that we may neither be harassed by alarming dreams nor evil thoughts, nor put in fear by wicked men or any calamitous events, but that we may rest secure and in peace under thy protection, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Thursday Morning.

O Lord my God, who hast been exceeding gracious in protecting me from the danger of the night, and keeping me in perfect peace and safety, I offer the tribute of praise for the same; and though I am unworthy the least of thy mercies, yet I beseech thee to continue thy fatherly care and goodness over me this day, and bless me

when I go out and when I come in, from this time forth for evermore. Keep me from the indulgence of those lusts which war against the soul, and from the snare of the devil, and so guard me that I may neither be led away myself, nor lead others into the dangerous paths of sin, the end of which is death. Put thy fear into my heart, and lay a holy restraint upon my thoughts, words, and actions, that I may not dishonour my profession and offend thee. Keep me from saying or doing any thing through envy, strife, or vain glory, and in lowliness of mind incline me to prefer others to myself. Mortify all carnal affections and worldly desires in me, and let all things belonging to the Spirit live and grow, that I may increase in wisdom as I do in years.

Bless me in all my reasonable and lawful pursuits, let thy glory be my leading object, and let my conversation be agreeable to the teaching of the grace of God. Give me

prudence to conduct myself aright towards my elders and superiors, my equals and inferiors, and especially those with whom I am particularly connected, parents, guardians, masters, or servants, and let my light in these and every other relation, so shine before men, that, seeing my good works, they may glorify thee, my Father in heaven. Give me this day the necessaries of life, and keep me from all its evils; guard me under temptations or trials, and protect me in danger, that I may pass my days in godliness and honesty, holiness and purity, safety and peace, and may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, as finally to come to the land of everlasting happiness.

Hear me, I beseech thee, and grant my requests for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose all prevailing name and comprehensive form of words, I further call upon thee.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Thursday Evening.

Father of Mercies and God of all consolation, who art always more ready to hear than I to pray, and art wont to give more than thy servants either desire or deserve, pour down upon me the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving me those things whereof my conscience is afraid, and giving me those good things which I am not worthy to ask but for the sake of thy Son.

I thank thee for the continuance of that goodness which has accompanied me through the day, both in the supply of all my wants, and in my preservation from all dangers. I have gone out and come in this day under thy special protection: Thy providence has watched over me, thy grace has prevented me, and thy mercy has followed me. Of all this make me duly sen-

sible, and for it may I be humbly thankful. Preserve me me from the sin of ingratitude to thee, my Benefactor and Friend, my Saviour and my God, that I may never provoke thee to withdraw thy watchful providence, to keep back thy preventing grace, or to withhold thine infinite mercy from me. Though I am utterly unworthy, yet let these follow me all the days of my life; and, when these days are ended, may I dwell with thee in life everlasting, through the merits of him who hath died for my sins, and rose again for my justification.

Let thine eye be upon me this night to bless and to keep me. Pardon my sins, help mine infirmities, and save my life from destruction. Be not extreme to mark what I have this day said or done amiss, and enter not into judgment either with me, or with any of those whom, from the ties of duty or of natural affection, I am bound to pray for. Be merciful to us all,

and let thine angels encamp round about us, to keep and protect us form all evil. Let no vain dreams disturb our rest, nor evil men make us afraid, but keep us safe under thy watchful care, for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who in compassion to our wants and infirmities has taught us thus to pray.

Our Father &c.

The grace af our &c.

For Friday Morning.

I am bound to praise thee, O my God, as for all thy other mercies, so particularly for the mercy of the night past. Thine eye has been upon me for good, and to thy protecting care I owe my safety during the darkness of night and the helpless state of sleep. Thou also hast continued thy goodness to me by raising me up from sleep,

and causing me to see and enjoy the light of the morning. Let my praise come up before thee as the morning sacrifice, and let my prayer ascend to thy mercy seat with renewed fervour of devotional feeling, and with renewed confidence and hope in thy mercy.

Hear me when I call, O God of my salvation, thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth, and who hast promised to send none empty away who come to thee in thy Son's name. In this prevailing name I approach thee, not trusting in my own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies as they are exhibited in him. Pardon my sins, heal my backslidings, love me freely, and save me for thy mercy's sake. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me; make me thy child by adoption and grace, and always look upon me with the favour that thou bearest unto thy children. Give me a child-like

temper and disposition toward thee, my heavenly Father, that I may love thee, worship thee, serve thee, and obey thee as I ought to do. Let my behaviour also among my companions and friends, be agreeable to my christian profession, behaving myself lowly and reverently to all arouud me, and following peace with all men. May I be dutiful to my parents, obedient to my superiors and those in authority, affectionate to my relatives, and kind to all. Enable me in all things to adorn the doctrine of God my Saviour, and as he was, so may I be in the world,—holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners: and let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Friday Evening.

O everlasting God, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning, I thy frail and fleeting creature, who, as soon as I was born, began to draw to my end, approach thee this evening, with a thankful remembrance of thy mercy, which has hitherto followed me. Thou hast visited me with goodness, and poured down thy blessings upon me: for whatever I enjoy or possess, I am indebted to thy bounty, even for life, breath, and all things. Under this prevailing sense, may my gratitude overflow, as my cup runneth over. As every morning and evening of my days supply some memorial of thy goodness, may each period of my time be marked by a suitable tribute of praise; and may I, with my

whole heart, say with the psalmist,—*It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praise to thy name, O thou most Highest; to tell of thy lovingkindness early in the morning, and of thy truth in the night season.*

But while I thus record thy goodness, I am ashamed of my own unworthiness, and of the many ways wherein I have offended. O Lord, lay not this to my charge as unpardoned guilt, but blot out as a thick cloud my transgressions, and as a cloud my sins: O! remember that Jesus died and rose again, and that he ascended into heaven, where he ever liveth to make intercession.—Let his intercession for me prevail, that my sin may be pardoned, and my pardon sealed in heaven, before I go hence to be no more seen. As a penitent sinner, to thee I cry for mercy and forgiveness; shut not thy merciful ears to my prayers, but spare me, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O

holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge Eternal, suffer me neither to fall from thee, at my last hour, nor to perish everlastingly: on the contrary, let that merciful kindness, which has followed me hitherto, follow me all the days of my life, that I may keep the faith, finish my course with joy, and lay hold on eternal life.

To thy keeping I commit myself this night, and commend to thy mercy all that are connected with me, (my &c.) beseeching thee to deal with us in mercy, and watch over us with care. These praises and prayers I humbly offer up to the throne of grace, in the name of Jesus Christ, through whose merits and mediation I further address thee, saying,

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Saturday Morning.

O most mighty Lord God, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders, I, a poor helpless sinner venture to approach thee this morning, in the spirit of praise, for thy continued goodness, and repeated acts of mercy. To thee alone I owe the rest I have had in sleep, and the preservation I have experienced during the night. Had I been dealt with after my sins, or rewarded according to mine iniquities, I might justly have been cut down, and numbered now with the dead: the living should praise thee, as I desire to do this morning; and let my praise be shewn not merely with my lips, but by dedicating the life which thou hast spared, and the soul which thou hast redeemed, to thy ho-

nour and service, walking constantly in thy faith and fear, and in holiness and righteousness all my days.

And as I have no power of myself to perform this, but my sufficiency is of thee, help me therefore, by thy heavenly grace, to overcome temptations, to resist sin, to stand fast in the faith, and acquit myself as a good soldier and servant of the great captain of my salvation. Look mercifully upon mine infirmities, and for the glory of thy name, turn from me all those evils that I most righteously have deserved; and grant, that in difficulty or danger, temptation or trial, adversity or trouble, I may put my whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honour and glory.

Thou who fillest all things living with plenteousness, be pleased to bestow upon me what thy wisdom may think good and proper for my use and benefit, and give me

grace to use thy bounty with moderation and thankfulness. Fit me for my station in life, and preserve me from the influence of its evils. Remove from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches, but feed me with food convenient for me; lest I be full and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain. Bless me, I pray thee, this day, and all with whom I am connected by the ties of affection or friendship; unite us all to thee by faith, and to each other by brotherly love; and grant us in this world, knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting, through Jesus Christ, in whose most holy name and words, I further call upon thee.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

For Saturday Evening.

At the close of another day, and another week, which has brought me nearer the house appointed for all living, I fall down before thee, O my God, under a grateful sense of thy lovingkindness and mercy. Fed by thy bounty, preserved by thy providence, and protected by thy power, my life has been continued, and I am again permitted to record thy mercy, and set forth thy praise. Let me be more and more sensible that thou art the author and giver of every blessing, and that from thee, the Father of lights, every good gift and every perfect gift, cometh down upon men: let this be deeply impressed upon my heart; and while I receive them of thy bounty, enable me to use them to thy glory.

Sensible how unworthy I am of those benefits and blessings which are conferred upon me, and how prone I am to abuse them, I humbly beseech thee to pardon my guilt on this head, and to strengthen my resolutions, that I may always act in such a manner, for the future, as never to dishonour the giver by an abuse of the gift. Impress upon my mind the unsatisfactory nature of all things here below; that whatever I have is passing away, and that the days are hastening on, when I shall not only say I have no pleasure in them, but when the fashion of the world shall have vanished as a cloud or a shadow. Incline me, therefore, to the choice of that which will stand me in stead, when all earthly things are gone, and cause me to seek, first and principally, the kingdom of God and his righteousness, trusting simply for other things to the bounty of him who causeth the grass to grow, and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him.

Extend thy grace and mercy to all sorts and conditions of men, and more especially to my relations, acquaintance, and friends. Give repentance to the wicked, grace to the penitent, faith to the wavering, and stedfastness to the believer, that all may come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Pardon my past offences, and give me grace to conduct myself properly in future, and more suitably to my christian profession than I may hitherto have done; confirm and strengthen me in all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep me in the same.

To thy care I commit myself, and all my concerns, this night, beseeching thee to bless me as thou hast done through the day, and to protect me from all danger. Grant that I may be refreshed with rest in sleep, and prepared for the ensuing Sab-

bath day. Raise me up in the morning with a thankful heart for thy mercy, a willing mind to thy service, and a ready obedience to all thy commands and ordinances, that I may enter thy courts with praise to thee, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, and present my fervent supplications to the throne of grace. Hear and answer me with an answer of peace, for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose words I conclude,

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

A Prayer for Grace to fulfil my Baptismal Vow.

O Lord my God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast purchased to thyself a Church, into which I have been admitted by Bap-

tism, I thank thee for the state of salvation to which I have been called, and for all its privileges and blessings. And as, in dependance upon thy strength and the power of thy might, I have promised to renounce the devil, and all his works, the pomps and vanities of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh; to believe all the articles of the christian faith, and to keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life, I humbly beseech thee to grant me grace and strength so faithfully to fulfil these my baptismal engagements, as to be in deed and in truth, and not in name only, a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven. Stablish, strengthen, and settle me, in repentance toward God, faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, and a stedfast purpose to lead a new life; and I pray thee to enable me to stand fast in the faith, and

to continue in the same, fighting manfully against sin, the world, and the devil, under my Saviour's banner, and continuing his faithful soldier and servant unto my life's end. Hear, help, and bless me, for this my Saviour's sake, who hath taught me when I pray, to say,

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

A Prayer for Grace to do my Duty to God.

O Lord God of my salvation, I beseech thee to look upon me with the favour that thou bearest unto thy children, and grant that, being thy child by adoption and grace, I may believe in thee, fear thee, and love thee, with all my heart, all my mind, all my soul, and all my strength; that I may

worship thee, give thee thanks, and put my whole trust in thee; that I may call upon thee, honour thy holy name, and word, and serve thee truly all the days of my life. Thus prepare me for a better world, where, from serving thee on earth, I may join angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, in a perfect service of praise and worship, singing the song of thy hosts above, and saying, "blessing. and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever." These prayers I offer to thee, O merciful God, in the name of thy well-beloved Son, concluding with the words which he has taught me.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

A Prayer for Grace to do my Duty to my Neighbour.

O everlasting God, who hast promised help to the weak, power to the faint, and an increase of strength to them that have no might, I beseech thee to fulfil thy promise in me, by enabling me to perform conscientiously the duty I owe to my fellow creatures, in all the relations of life. Qualify me particularly, by thy aid and strength, to do my duty toward my neighbour, in the practical exercise of every christian grace; that I may love him as myself, and do unto all men, as I would they should do unto me; that I may love, honour, and succour my father and mother, and both honour and obey

the king and all that are put in authority under him: that I may submit myself to all my governors, teachers, spiritual pastors, and masters; that I may order myself lowly and reverently to all my betters, and hurt no body by word or deed; may be true and just in all my dealings, and bear no malice nor hatred in my heart; that I may keep my hands from picking and stealing, my tongue from evil speaking, lying, and slandering, and my body in temperance, soberness, and chastity; and that I may neither covet nor desire other men's goods, but may learn and labour truly to get my own living, and to do my duty in that state of life unto which it may please thee to call me.—Thus may I walk all the days of my life, in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; and whatsoever things are honest, just, pure, lovely, or of good report, may they be found in me, for Jesus

Christ's sake, in whose most holy name and words, I further call upon thee.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

☞ The young person is truly and properly told, in the Church Catechism, that he cannot perform his duty either to God or man, without the special aid of divine grace, which he is therefore directed to learn at all times to call for by diligent prayer. This may be an apology, if one be necessary, for having turned the duty we owe to God and our neighbour, as well as the baptismal vow, into forms of prayer for young persons, as they are at once supplied with suitable words, and conducted to the source from whence their help must come.

The Lord's Prayer expressed according to the Explanation in the Church Catechism.

My Lord and Heavenly Father, who art the giver of all goodness, I humbly desire thee to send thy grace unto me, and to all people, that I may worship thee, serve thee, and obey thee as I ought to do. And I pray unto thee that thou wouldst send me all things that be needful both for my soul and my body, and that thou wouldst be merciful unto me, and forgive me my sins; and that it may please thee to save and defend me in all dangers; that I may be kept from all sin and wickedness, from my spiritual enemy the devil, and from everlasting death. And all this I trust thou wilt do of thy mercy and goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a Blessing upon Reading the Scriptures.

Blessed Lord, who hast given thy word, and declared thy will to the world in the scriptures of truth, and hast caused them to be written for all our learning, give me grace to receive them, not as the word of man, but, as they are in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh in all that believe; let me see it to be my duty to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them: open my understanding, that I may know the meaning of what is there written, and be guided into all necessary truth, especially of my fall in Adam, my redemption by Christ, and my need of divine teaching. Incline me to receive the doctrines, and practice the duties of thy holy word; and may I believe thy promises,

hope in thy mercy, fear thy threate
stand in awe of thy judgements, hate
false way, and esteem thy precepts
cerning all things to be right. Thus
me up in thy faith, and keep me i
fear, and grant that by patience and
fort of thy holy word, I may embrac
ever hold fast the blessed hope of ev
ing life, which is there revealed. A
thou, O God of hope, fill me, throug
word, with all joy and peace in beli
that I may abound in hope, throu
power of him by whom holy men
spake as they were moved. Hear
Lord, and answer me for thy mercy
in Christ, in whose name and th
whose mediation I further address t

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

On Christmas Day.

Father of Mercies, and God of all comfort, I thank thee for that amazing instance of thy love, which we this day in particular hold in remembrance, the gift of thy Son: though rich, he became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich; and so great was his condescension, that when he took upon him to deliver man, he did not abhor the virgin's womb. For this thine inestimable love, I give thee most humble and hearty thanks; and while I am led to see the sin which caused the humiliation of thy Son, may I be led to true repentance and faith unfeigned, receiving him as Immanuel, God with us, and as Jesus who came to save me from my sins. Teach me what belongs to his nature, office, and character, and the virtue

of his mediation between God and man. And from feeling my need of him, may I fly to him for refuge, and escape the punishment due to sin. May the glad tidings of his birth be tidings of joy to me, that I may sing glory to thee in the highest, while I see peace brought to rebellious man, and have in my own heart peace and joy in believing. Receiving him as my Saviour from the guilt, the power, and the condemnation of sin, may I approach thee now, and at all times, as my reconciled Father, and evermore rejoice in thy holy comfort, for the same thy Son's sake, who knowing the necessities of his people before they ask, and their ignorance in asking, hath taught us all thus to express our wants:

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

On Good Friday.

O gracious Father,, who, by the death of thy Son Jesus Christ, hast delivered man from the curse of the fall, mercifully grant that I may be benefited by this thine infinite goodness, and saved through him from the wrath to come. Pardon my sins for his sake who died upon the cross, the just for the unjust, and grant that I, believing in the efficacy of his death, may not perish, but have the promised blessing of everlasting life. And as he gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works, may I be cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and perfect holiness in thy faith and fear. According to the teaching of that grace which bringeth salvation, may I deny ungodliness and

worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; and may I thus, in the obedience of faith, and labour of love, look for the accomplishment of that blessed hope, which I have in the precious death, and meritorious sacrifice of my Lord and Saviour, in whose blessed name and form of words, I sum up my petitions.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

On Easter Day.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast redeemed me to thyself, by the death of thy Son, I humbly thank thee for this thine inestimable benefit, and I beseech thee to receive my further tribute of praise for the perfection of this work,

in the glory that followed, by his resurrection from the dead. As all must have failed, had not this taken place, and I must have died without hope, I am especially bound to thank thee for delivering him up for mine offences, and for raising him again for my justification. Grant, blessed Lord, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead, so I may be raised from the death of sin unto a life of righteousness, and enabled by thy grace, to mortify all my evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceed in all virtue and godliness of living. Thus prepare me for the inheritance of the saints in light, that through the grave and gate of death, I may pass to a joyful resurrection, for his merits, who died, and was buried, and rose again for me, thy Son Jesus Christ, in whose words I conclude my petitions.

Our Father &c.

The grace af our &c.

On Ascension Day.

O God, the King of Glory, who hast exalted thy Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven, I beseech thee to raise me in heart and mind above the things of this world, and cause me to ascend by faith, and in hope, to that place of rest which my Saviour is gone to take possession of, and to prepare. And grant, O my God, that, being raised to newness of life, I may seek those things which are above, where Christ now sitteth at thy right hand; that I may set my affection on things above, and not on things on the earth, and that my life may be so hid with Christ in God, as that when he, who is my life and hope, shall appear again, I may appear with him in glory. Thus conduct me to thy holy hill and to thy dwelling, and grant that being stedfast in

faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, I may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, as finally to come to the land of everlasting happiness. And this I beg for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose all prevailing name, I further address thee.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

On Whit-Sunday.

Almighty Father, who, according to thy Son's sure promise, didst send down the Holy Ghost the Comforter, to enlighten the minds of the Apostles, guide them into all truth, and qualify them to teach all nations, I humbly thank thee for the light of the Gospel thus sent abroad, and for

that degree of it which has been communicated to my soul. Send out thy light and truth into all the dark corners of the earth, and qualify those who may be sent by the same Spirit which guided the first preachers of thy word, that they may be able Ministers of Jesus Christ, and rightly divide the word of truth. And let thy bright beams of light be shed around me, and in me, more and more, that I may be guided into all necessary truth, and kept from every pernicious error; and that, being turned effectually from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, my light may so shine before men, that they may see my good works, and glorify my Father who is in heaven. In every situation of life, let thy Holy Spirit in all things direct and rule my heart, that by thy holy inspiration I may both think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught me thus to address thee:

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

The New Year.

O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, with whom one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day, whose years fail not, but who art God from everlasting, and will be so when days, and months, and years are all gone, I thy poor, frail creature, humbly approach thee, at the end of one year, and the beginning of another, to thank thee for mercies already received, and, should my life be continued, to entreat thy mercy for the time to come.

Through the year that is past, thy mercies have been new every morning and evening, and great has been thy faithfulness. For all I am bound to give thee most humble and hearty thanks; and I pray thee to enable me to do this, not only with my lips, but also in my life.

Hitherto, as thou knowest, I have failed exceedingly, both in my duty to God and man, having offended in many things, and fallen short in all; enter not into judgement with thy servant, O Lord; deal not with me after my sins, nor reward me as mine iniquities have deserved, but *in the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences; wash me throughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin; for I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me. Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds; make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me; cast me not aw*

m thy presence, and take not thy Holy irit from me.

Enable me, by thy grace, for the time come, to resist sin, the world, and the vil, and to live a life of godliness and nesty, that I may glorify thy name, rough the year I am entering upon, ore than I have done during the year at is past. This portion of my time now gone beyond recovery, and my is stand upon record; on this account should be utterly ashamed and con-unded, were it not equally upon record at there is mercy with thee, and that any man sin, there is an advocate in aven, Jesus Christ the righteous. Mer-fully grant that his propitiatory sacri-e may amply atone for all my sins, d his intercession prevail for my pardon, d my everlasting peace. O Lord, in ee have I trusted, let me never be put confusion, but deliver me in thy right-

cousness, and keep me by thy power through faith unto salvation, for Jesus Christ's sake, in reliance upon whose merits and mediation, I further supplicate thy mercy.

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

THE LAST JUDGEMENT.

O LORD, thy word is truth, and thou hast there said that thou wilt judge the world in righteousness, and that every one shall give an account to God, for to thee every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess. O! may I stand with confidence, when thou shalt arise to shake terribly the earth, and reward the proud after their deservings! and may I be numbered

with those who are redeemed out of every people, and nation, and tongue, and to whom, I am assured, it will be said,—come, ye blessed children of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!—Prepare me against this day by faith and hope, which maketh not ashamed, and in the exercise of every christian grace; that my loins may be girded about, and my lamp kept burning, for the appearance of my Lord, that when he cometh, I may be ready, and when he knocketh, I may open unto him immediately.

Let that blessing be mine, which we are assured will be conferred upon him who is faithful, and found watching; and let me stand in my lot with him, at the end of the days: and grant that all with whom I am connected, may also stand with confidence, and be found in the faith, when the Son of Man cometh in the glory

of his Father, and of the holy angel
The nearer this day approaches, the bett
may we all be prepared for it; and whe
it shall arrive, may we be found of thee i
peace, without spot, and blameless. The
prayers and supplications I humbly off
up to the throne of grace, in the name an
through the mediation of my Lord an
Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose form
words I conclude my imperfect petitions

Our Father, &c.

The grace of our &c.

On entering Church.

O Lord, I am now in thy house, enab
me to conduct myself humbly, lowly, an
reverently; to pray with the spirit, an

with the understanding also; to hear with profit the renewed message of salvation; and truly and faithfully to fulfil whatever I may now, or at any time, profitably learn, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On leaving Church.

I thank thee, O Lord, for this opportunity of attending thee in thy house and service. Let my prayer come up in thy sight as the incense, and grant that I, and all that are assembled before thee, this day, may be doers of thy word, and not hearers only. Pardon my wanderings and imperfections, my sins and infirmities, and grant me peace in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace before Meat.

Bless, O Lord, we beseech thee, the
thy good creatures to our use, and
to thy service, for Jesus Christ's sal
Amen.

Grace after Meat.

We thank thee, O God, for this
freshment, and for all thy other merci
for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord and S
viour. Amen.

FINIS.

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